

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1912.

## MONTREAL'S FLOATING DRY DOCK.

The floating dry dock, the Duke of Connaught, which will be recalled was christened by Mrs. Haas during her visit to England, has arrived safely at Montreal. The history of the long voyage and its perils detailed in the log of the tug Roodzee, the larger of the two powerful Dutch tugs which towed the dock across the Atlantic, reads like a tale of adventure. The risks encountered may be judged from the fact that on one occasion, when nearing Canada, the dock broke away from the tugs during a hurricane and narrowly escaped being wrecked on the Nova Scotia coast. That the dock arrived safely in Montreal is clearly due to the expert seamanship of the captains of the tugs Roodzee and Zwartsee which had it in tow. It was no light undertaking to pilot this immense bulk through the storms of the North Atlantic.

From the time the dock left Barrow-on-Furness, two months ago, according to the log of the Roodzee, quoted in the Montreal Star, until the Aetrea was reached on September 18th, fair weather was encountered. The remainder of the voyage was a continuous struggle to control the dock in the heavy seas. The cables parted on several occasions and the dock drifted many miles out of the course. The most eventful day of the trip, however, was reserved until the tow was some forty miles north-east of Sydney, on October 12th. The log of the Roodzee gives the following graphic description of the dock's narrow escape:

"October 12, at 8 a. m., when 40 miles northeast of Sydney, the tow parted. A hurricane from the north drove the dock before it at such a rapid pace, that the tugs experienced difficulty in keeping up with her. It was found necessary, if the dock was not to be a total loss on the rocky shore of Nova Scotia, to pick up the tow immediately. An immense wave caught the Roodzee and nearly carried her down on her starboard ship. Disaster was averted by only a few feet. Finally a cable end was floated on a large piece of wood, and as it drifted by the dock was hastily made fast. The Swartsee made a connection and the full power of both tugs was applied to prevent a catastrophe. They strove for hours but lost ground slowly until the coast was not five miles distant. Luckily the wind veered from North to West, and the dock was saved. Otherwise it would certainly have become a total wreck on the coasts of Nova Scotia."

The remainder of the voyage was uneventful. Montreal is to be congratulated on the safe arrival of the floating dock, which is one of the largest in existence, and will be of immense value in the development of the shipping industry. The dock is 600 feet long over all, 135 feet wide, and is more than 60 feet above the water line. From the center part of the top of both walls of the dock, extend the long arms of two immense cranes which are extremely powerful. The portion of the dock which will receive ships has the appearance of a great paved boulevard.

Some idea of the method of operation may be gathered from a recent experience at Sheerness on the Medway in England where the battleship St. Vincent was used in a test by the Admiralty to prove the efficiency of a new floating dock. The warship steamed slowly up the Medway where the dock was moored with a clear run of water between its 60 feet walls. Then, with four Government tugs to steady her into position, she slid over the submerged structure of which only the cranes and funnel were visible. As soon as the ship had been warped into the middle, the pumps, deep down in the water below, were set working. The St. Vincent began to rise, the rest of her hull showing through the water. Immediately shipwrights and riggers from Chatham set to work with wedges and mallets, fixing the first line of timber shores to hold the ship upright. In five hours the St. Vincent had been raised 15 feet, and in seven hours she stood fair and square on the blocks without deviating an inch either way.

## STILL AN OPPORTUNIST.

If Liberals are looking to Sir Wilfrid Laurier for leadership on the naval question, says the London Free Press, it is little to be wondered at that they are so sadly divided. The Free Press points out that the Liberal chieftain has been glibly declaring his intention of doing nothing that will in any way stir up prejudice, but in the same breath declaring his allegiance to a policy that was rejected along with reciprocity and various other Liberal policies when the decisive strokes fell on September 21, 1911.

The Canadian people might stand for beating about the bush on some questions, but when it comes to an issue like that of Naval Defence and Imperial co-operation, they will demand that the Liberal party make plain their position. If opposed, well and good. They can be taken at their own measure. If in agreement, they have no excuse for hiding it. Least of all will the country tolerate the proposal made at Ottawa that the Liberal party shall leave the party majority in the Senate the task of strangling the work of the House of Commons. There was an example of this kind of work last session, when the Senate threw out the good roads legislation of the Commons in obedience to the will of its lord and master, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The Senate played a dangerous game in doing that and will consider well before it repeats it.

It was Goldwin Smith who characterized Sir Wilfrid as a thorough opportunist, and entry into the shades of Opposition has not changed his character in that respect. He is still ready to move as occasion may show most favorable to himself, and the statements he has made on the naval question in the last month are sufficiently enigmatical to mean anything. The present, however, is an occasion when not aphoristic utterance, but plain speech is demanded, and the demand will not be satisfied without such straight answer.

## FRANCE UNDER THE NEW TARIFF.

A consular report on the economic development of France, recently issued by the British Foreign Office, contains much that is instructive and important, more especially as testimony to the effects of the new French tariff of 1910, which, according to official statements, "was drawn up with a view to making it a more effective one when negotiating for concessions from foreign countries." "It was also thought necessary," says the British Consul General, "to render it more in accordance

with the requirements of recent developments of many French trades and industries."

The immediate result of the new tariff was that concessions were entered into with Canada, the United States, Portugal and Japan, which had the effect of facilitating commerce with these countries, which had previously been in an unsatisfactory state from the French point of view. "The 1911 arrangement with Portugal," says the Consul General, "terminated a long period of unsatisfactory relations. The French minimum rates were then again subjected to imports from Portugal in return for most-favored-nation treatment in Portugal and some special tariff concessions." France has thus been able, by her tariff, to secure advantages in the Portuguese market.

In France, as in all other countries, there has of late been a considerable increase in the cost of living, but it is worthy of note that only since 1907-8 has the change been appreciable. "Up to those years," says the Consul General, "prices as a whole had not changed much since 1880. Even in 1909 the majority of prices 'still remained below those of the 1875-80 period.' The rising prices are largely to be attributed to floods, unsatisfactory crops and other exceptional circumstances which affected French agriculture in 1910-11. But there are other causes of a more satisfactory nature. They are, as the Consul General states, "the shorter hours of work, and the simultaneous increase of wages which had become general among the working classes, who in late years have expected to live more comfortably than formerly. They have certainly created a large demand for certain kinds of products which they could not afford before."

Taking the fifty-three-year period before the Consul General shows that wages have about doubled, "and many further increases have been conceded during the past year 1911." Prices reached their height on September last (1912), since when they "gradually fell for most classes of provisions after the summer's drought was over, and have not risen again to any extent."

Notwithstanding a disastrous agricultural season and devastating floods, combined with great strikes among railway and post office employees, the foreign trade of France showed a development of £37,021,000 over the previous year, and "the revenue has risen by over £12,000,000 from 1910 to the estimated figures for 1912." Taking a general survey of the condition of France and the French people, the advantages of her tariff system are plainly to be seen. It is noteworthy that in Great Britain, as in France, the cost of living has risen, but prices in the Old Country began to rise at a much earlier date than in France; they have not been either caused or accompanied by higher wages, and there has been no such elevation in the standard of living of the working classes as to create "a large demand for certain kinds of products which they could not afford before."

The situation presents a strong argument for Tariff Reform. The United Kingdom, like France, has to face keen competition in the markets of the world, but, having a tariff wherewith to bargain, France is able to obtain, in many cases, better terms of entry into these markets. Moreover, she has a secure home market, in which the wants of 40 million Frenchmen are supplied, for the most part, by French industries, while the British unprotected home market is open to the competition of the whole world.

## TURKEY SING FOR PEACE.

That the Porte has applied to the Powers with a view to the cessation of hostilities and for the negotiation of peace, will occasion little surprise in Europe. It was stated in Paris on Friday that the Turkish Government would announce acceptance of mediation by the Powers in the Balkans within seventy-two hours. The forecast has proved true. Interest will now centre on the action the Powers will take.

Judging by the report from Gibraltar that the third battle squadron was expected from England yesterday and would proceed Eastward without delay, and by the activity at Portsmouth and other dockyards it is evident that Great Britain is preparing for all contingencies. From recent indications the outlook is hopeful for a settlement to which the Powers will agree and that the peace of Europe will be secured.

## Current Comment

Mr. Churchill and Ulster. (Edmonton Journal.)

Winston Churchill has taken severely to task by Liberal journals for his recent suggestion that the principle of Home Rule in local affairs should be applied to still smaller areas than the different kingdoms. But this looks like the only satisfactory solution of the difficulty in regard to Ulster. If its people do not wish to unite with the rest of Ireland for the purposes of local government and are prepared to go any length to prevent it, it is contrary to the whole spirit of British institutions to try to force them into the arrangement. The argument in favor of Home Rule for the rest of Ireland is also against forcing a Dublin Parliament on the citizens of Ulster.

## Expensive Amusement.

(Montreal Gazette.)

A man who discharged a revolver on McGill street has been sentenced to a fine of \$40 or two months in jail for doing so, and \$10 or 30 days for having a loaded weapon in his possession. The punishment is the result provided by the law in the circumstances and is deserved. It is heavy enough to make even a gun crank think twice before incurring it.

## Wilson's Sang Froid.

(Hamilton Herald.)

Governor Wilson says he intends going to bed at 9 o'clock on Tuesday night and sleeping until his usual time for rising Wednesday morning, when he will learn from the morning newspapers how the presidential election went. Which goes to show that the Governor is a philosopher as well as a scholar in politics.

## Depreciating Lloyd George.

(Detroit Free Press.)

Lloyd George is the Roosevelt of England. He has made fine boasts about the miracles he would work with his social justice wand. What has he actually done? His people are starving. His continuous tampering with the foundation of general welfare have brought unbounded misery and nothing more.

## A Worthy Purpose.

(London Free Press.)

Edmonton is giving three-fourths of a million dollars to new hospitals. The West is not so material in spirit that it neglects ample provision for the care and comfort of the sick.

## More Than Their Fair Share.

(Detroit Free Press.)

Mr. Morgan and Mr. Rockefeller are said to control 30 per cent. of the actual wealth and natural resources of the country. How did the other 64 per cent. escape?

## An Invitation.

(Cincinnati Enquirer.)

Uncle Sam requests the attendance of John Bull at the wedding of Miss Pacific to Mr. A. T. Laetic, September, 1912. No hummers.

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## GREAT CHANGES IN THE ST. JOHN VALLEY

J. B. Dagget, at Meeting of Gagetown Board of Trade, Tells of Agricultural Possibilities.

Gagetown, Nov. 1.—Last evening a special meeting was called by the secretary of the Board of Trade to listen to an address, delivered by J. B. Dagget, the newly appointed secretary of Agriculture, who only last week took over his new office in succession to Mr. Hubbard. The meeting was fairly well attended, considering that so short a notice was given. The President, S. L. Peters, being unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Wm. B. Smith took the chair. It was pleasing to notice that several visitors were in the audience, amongst them being A. R. Slipp, M. P. D. The chairman called upon Mr. Slipp to introduce Mr. Dagget to the meeting, as he said that it was through the energies of Mr. Slipp that Mr. Dagget was brought to meet them that evening. Mr. Slipp, who was well received, spoke first of his encouragement to the new Board of Trade. He dwelt chiefly upon the enormous resources of our province and the prospect of great work of encouragement to the new Board of Trade. He dwelt chiefly upon the enormous resources of our province and the prospect of great work of encouragement to the new Board of Trade. He dwelt chiefly upon the enormous resources of our province and the prospect of great work of encouragement to the new Board of Trade.

Mr. Dagget then rose to address the meeting, and he was glad to receive such a reception. Mr. Dagget in a most able address, which was made doubly interesting, owing to his not an outsider but one born in the province, and one who was well acquainted with most of the districts, and had also had practical experience in all branches of agriculture and horticulture generally. Mr. Dagget then rose to address the meeting, and he was glad to receive such a reception. Mr. Dagget in a most able address, which was made doubly interesting, owing to his not an outsider but one born in the province, and one who was well acquainted with most of the districts, and had also had practical experience in all branches of agriculture and horticulture generally.

Owing to the heavy rains of last week the river has been at the spring freshet height, the whole of this week. The low water level has been maintained now some days, and the river boats have had to use the high wharf. All the intervals opposite the wharf have had to use the high wharf. All the intervals opposite the wharf have had to use the high wharf. All the intervals opposite the wharf have had to use the high wharf.

Child Strayed Away From Home. About 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon a three year old boy was found by the police wandering about Mill street, and was taken to the central police station where he was afterwards called for by his brother, Frank Garrison and taken to his home, 13 Brook street.

Preached in St. Martins. Rev. Dr. J. A. Morrison preached at the morning service in St. Martin's church yesterday. Rev. Dr. Morrison spoke from the text "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth," and delivered an able address in which he showed God's relation to the individual.

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